



Lander County
School District
Public Education
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Nevada



Lander County School District

PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The Lander County School District is a competency-based educational system that recognizes that parent and family involvement is essential to academic achievement. The term "parent" refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for students. Although parents come to our schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, we assume they share a common interest in an excellent education for their children. School personnel, in collaboration with students, parents, and families, must establish and develop programs and opportunities that enhance parent and family involvement and reflect the needs of all involved.

Lander County School District staff members are always willing to talk to any parent or family who has a concern regarding the educational process in our competency-based education system and the educational success of their child.

The Board of Trustees encourages parents to make such contacts. Only through parents and schools working together can a child's full educational potential be achieved. The Board of Trustees have adopted educational involvement compacts and believe stakeholders, including parents and family members, can become involved through:

Student:

I realize that my education is important to me. It helps me develop tools I need to become a happy and productive person. I also understand my parents want to help me do my very best in school. I know I am the one responsible for my own success, and that I must work hard to achieve it. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability.

1. Arrive at school on time and prepared to learn.
2. Do my homework and class work and turn it in on time.
3. Work hard to meet grade level expectations that prepare me for college/career.
4. Take ownership for my attendance, behavior, attitude and learning.
5. Advocate to be taught and supported by a highly qualified teacher.

Classroom Teacher:

I understand the importance of providing a supportive, effective learning environment that enables all students to meet the rigorous academic standards through our role as educators and models. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability.

1. Communicate with you on your child's progress regularly and encourage parent involvement in your child's program.
2. Ensure each student is provided high-quality curriculum and instruction, supervision and positive interactions.
3. Grow professionally through targeted, sustained professional development and other supports.

4. Monitor student growth and address academic concerns in a timely manner throughout the school year.

Parent/Caregiver:

I realize that my child's years are very important and I understand that my participation in my child's education will help his or her achievement and attitude. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

1. Go over my child's assignments and/or planner with him/her.
2. Give my child time and a place to study.
3. Attend parent conferences, open house and other school activities when possible.
4. Communicate respectfully with my child's teacher when I have a concern.

District/School

I understand the importance of ensuring a safe and orderly learning environment with high expectations for student learning. Therefore, I agree to carry out the following responsibilities to the best of my ability:

1. Ensure all students are taught by a highly qualified teacher.
2. Ensure all educators are allocated adequate resources and supports
3. Provide clear performance expectations aligned to our professional responsibilities
4. Acknowledge and reward educators for effective practices.

Additionally, parents and family members can support the schools and district in the following extended capacities:

- ☐ Serving as an advisor or decision maker, such as:
 - o Serving on a committee with responsibility for advising school administrators, including the School Improvement Plan Team, the District Improvement Plan Team, the Attendance Committee, the Parent-Teacher Association, etc.; and
 - o Helping in the governance of the school as a part of ad hoc planning and implementation teams.
- ☐ Being an advocate for the school and its programs in the community, such as:
 - o Vocally supporting efforts to increase school funding at all funding levels;
 - o Encouraging local businesses to contribute to school programs; and
 - o Serving as a part of a district-organized committee at community and legislative forums.

The Lander County School Board supports the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent and family involvement plan for the district and in every school, which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent and family involvement programs will be comprehensive and coordinated and must include, but are not limited to, the following components of successful parent and family involvement programs:

- o Regular communication among home, school, and district, such as the use of newsletters, web pages, e-mail, other technologies and marquees, meetings, and whenever possible, in the home language;
- o Promotion and support of responsible parenting;
- o Coordinate scheduling of activities involving students and parents of all schools in Lander County School District to facilitate family involvement. Major events at each site must be put on a District-wide calendar to avoid conflicts.

- o Recognition that parents play an integral role in assisting student learning;
- o A welcoming atmosphere for parents in the school and active solicitation of parents' support and assistance for school programs;
- o Inclusion of parents as full partners in the decisions that affect their children;
- o Availability of community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning;
- o Make resources available to parents/families regarding educational and family issues;
- o School staff involvement in parent organizations is highly encouraged;
- o Parent involvement in learning activities at home, conferencing, school events, and volunteering in the classroom or at a school;
- o Regular conferencing opportunities for parents and families with their student's teacher(s) to encourage and support student achievement;
- o Training parents, families, and community members as volunteers;
- o Yearly progress towards goals via the School and District Accountability reports required by NRS will be provided.

The Lander County School District will support parent involvement by having teachers or school administrators communicate the following information by letter; on websites; in newsletters, student handbooks or other effective methods, at the beginning of each school year or upon a student's enrollment:

District also agrees to implement the following federal requirements for all Title I schools:

I. General Expectations

- The Lander County School District will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the Lander County School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, an educational involvement accord consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The Lander County School District will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Lander County School District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the Lander County School District will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The Lander County School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The Lander County School District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

The Lander County School District will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Nevada State Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC) as well as the Lander PIRC.

II. Implementation

1. The Lander County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- The Lander County School District will work in consultation with the Title I schools' School Improvement Planning teams (SIP) and parent teacher association (PTA) to develop and review each site's parent involvement plan. A parent-at-large will serve on the District Improvement Plan (DIP) committee

2. The Lander County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- The Lander County School District will require parent participation on all Title I school SIP committees and a parent-at-large will serve on the District Improvement Plan (DIP) committee.

3. The Lander County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- The Lander County School District will provide assistance in the coordination of parent involvement activities through the District Improvement Team and Nevada State PIRC.

4. The Lander County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The Lander County School District will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental

involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- The Lander County School District will collect school site data on parent involvement annually through a district-wide needs assessment. Data will be collected from parents, synthesized by external program evaluation experts, and provided in individual reports to the schools and collectively to the District and site leadership staff. The data will be provided to the schools in time to guide program improvements regarding more effective parental involvement for the next school calendar year, as outlined in the DIP and SIPs.

5. The Lander County School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The Lander County School District will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators.

The Title I schools use the following programs and best practices to build parents' capacity in understanding critical topics:

- Family Math
- Family Literacy
- Volunteer/Parent Training
- Partnerships
- Parent Teacher Association
- Parent Conferences

B. The Lander County School District will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

The Title I schools use the following programs and best practices and works with the Nevada State PIRC to build parents' capacity in understanding critical topics:

- CCSS
- Literacy and Math
- Volunteer/Parent Training
- Partnerships
- Parent Teacher Association

C. The Lander County School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

The Lander County School District will work with the Family Resource Offices, Nevada State PIRC, Director of Assessments and Grants, and the District Professional Development Program (PDP) to provide professional development on parent involvement to its administrators, teachers, and support staff. The training will include information on how to positively utilize existing resources such as the Nevada State Educational Involvement Accord and parent groups.

D. The Lander County School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the early childhood resources (such as Head Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and public preschool and other programs), and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

The Lander County School District's Early Childhood Program (EC) provides the venue for coordination and integration of family involvement programs and activities such as those found in the Early Childhood and Developmental Kindergarten programs. Collaboration to share strategies and integrate programs occurs through the integration of these programs.

E. The Lander County School District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Regular communication will be provided among home, school, and district, such as the use of newsletters, web pages, PowerSchool, email, other technologies and marquees, school signs, meetings, and whenever possible, in the home language.

III. Adoption

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy, along with the Title I, Part A specific components, has been developed jointly with, and agreed on, with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by documentation of outreach to Title I parents. This policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students at the beginning of each school year.